

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
DRAFT SUMMARY NOTES FOR MEETING OF JULY 29-31, 2008
NOTE: THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Location: Morenci, Arizona
Date/Time: July 29-31, 2008
Convener: Arizona Game and Fish Department
Participants: Note: participants listed below might not have been present on all days or for all sessions on a given day

Lead Agencies: AGFD Terry B. Johnson (Chair), Dave Cagle, Jon Cooley; NMDGF Matt Wunder; USFS Cathy Taylor; USDA-APHIS WS Dave Bergman, Alan May; USFWS Maggie Dwire and John Oakleaf; WMAT Cynthia Dale

Signatory Cooperators: EACOC Larry Stevenson; GRAHCO Mark Herrington, Terry Cooper; GRECO Hector Ruedas, Kay Gale; NACO Jerry Brownlow; NMDA Bud Starnes; SICO Jan Carrejo

IFT: AGFD Chris Bagnoli, Mike Godwin, Jeff Dolphin, Beth Orning-Tschampl; NMDGF Ellen Heilhecker; USDA-APHIS WS Bill Nelson.

Lead Agency Directors: AGFD Larry Voyles; NMDGF Bruce Thompson; USDA-APHIS WS Jeff Green; USFS Corbin Newman; USFWS Brian Millsap (surrogate for Benjamin Tuggle); WMAT Cynthia Dale (surrogate for John Caid)

Others: SCAT no representation; USDA-APHIS WS Chris Carrillo; USFWS Wally Murphy, John Slown, Jim Ashburner

Terry Johnson opened the meeting at 1000 AZ Time on July 29. The meeting continued through 1700 that day, from 0800 to 1600 on July 30, and from 0900 to 1500 on July 31. The Action Items below constitute the Summary Notes for this meeting.

Completed Action Items

1. Matt Wunder (assigned 4/22/08): provide location details to Terry Johnson for AMOC and AMWG meetings on October 28-29, 2008. Information provided August 4.
2. Wally Murphy (assigned 4/22/08): have a backup (surrogate) available for John Oakleaf at the field level, whether permanently or on a case-by-case basis. Update July 31: discussed in AMOC on July 29-31 and reassigned to Maggie Dwire.
3. Terry Johnson (assigned 4/23/08): get a revised draft of concept-level temporary holding facility proposal from IFT and send to Lead Agency representatives. Lead Agency representatives update Directors before May 20, so AMOC can discuss proposal further on May 20, 2008 conference call. Update July 31: revised proposal distributed to AMOC on July 1 and discussed in AMOC on July 29-31.
4. John Slown (assigned 5/20/08): submit potential June NEPA Cooperator meeting dates to Terry Johnson by May 31 to forward to AMOC members, who will comment back to Slown.

Update June 27: Slown affirmed today the meeting will occur on September 10-11, in ABQ. Date set to enable participation by USFWS Region 2 Director Tuggle.

5. 2006 NEPA Addendum to 2003 AMOC MOU (assigned 4/22/08).
 - a. Completed: John Slown (assigned 4/22/08): identify agencies requesting recognition as NEPA Cooperators under 2003 AMOC MOU.
 - b. Completed. Terry Johnson (assigned 5/20/08). Schedule AMOC acceptance of new Cooperators under 2006 NEPA Addendum to 2003 AMOC MOU (assigned 4/22/08). Graham and Greenlee counties accepted on July 29, 2008.
6. Cathy Taylor (assigned 5/20/08): update AMOC on draft USFS SUP guidelines for education and recreation related field activities at July AMOC meeting. Update July 31: issue discussed in AMOC meeting on July 29-31. SUPs and guidelines are USFS regulatory responsibility; no further AMOC action necessary.
7. Dave Cagle and Bill Van Pelt (assigned 5/20/08): by May 31, report to Terry Johnson projected FY2009 costs for fixed-wing support for Project, and how much money is available from AGFD for helicopter and fixed-wing flight support. Update July 31: information provided June 26. Total projected need \$179,217 for fixed-wing and helicopter flights (including weekly monitoring, capture/removal, end-of-year count, and contingency flights).
8. Terry Johnson (assigned 5/20/08): on June 2, advise AMOC of projected FY2009 costs for fixed-wing and helicopter support for Project, and how much money is available from AGFD and NMDGF. Update July 31: information provided and discussed in AMOC meeting on July 29-31. NMDGF providing \$47,000 and AGFD providing \$98,202.
9. Matt Wunder (assigned 5/20/08): when NMDGF range rider contract information becomes available to public, give it to Terry Johnson to disseminate to AMOC cooperators. Update July 31: Wunder provided requested information in AMOC meeting on July 29-31.
10. John Oakleaf (assigned 5/20/08): work with IFTLs to complete 2008 Annual Work Plan and send it to Terry Johnson by June 23 to disseminate to AMOC. Completed: Revised Work Plan received June 18. Terry Johnson edited it, disseminated it to AMOC, and posted it on Project Web site.
11. Cynthia Dale (assigned 5/20/08): by June 15, provide Terry Johnson with meeting room and lodging availability for 2009 AMOC meeting scheduled for FAIR. Update June 17: Dale completed arrangements and emailed information to Johnson for dissemination to AMOC.
12. AMOC cooperators and John Oakleaf (as IFT Liaison to AMOC) send "Directors Summit" agenda items to Terry Johnson by June 30. Completed: one item received by June 30, 2008.
13. Terry Johnson (assigned 6/10/08): provide AMOC with information on AGFD's decision on request from Western Watersheds Project for AMOC Summary Notes from 2003 to date. Update July 31: final information provided to AMOC on July 9 and discussed in AMOC meeting on July 29-31. AMOC consensus on making Summary Notes available to the public henceforth (in Action Item format), via Project Web site.
14. AMOC (assigned 5/20/08): by June 30, AMOC cooperators submit comment on draft USFWS Mexican Wolf Conservation Assessment to Tracy Melbhiess (USFWS Contractor). Update July 31: AGFD, NMDGF, USDA-APHIS WS, USFS, and USFWS all submitted comment on or before June 30.
15. AMOC (assigned 6/10/08): discuss including email addresses in SOP 0.C (issue precipitated by NMDGF IFTL email exchange with private individual on June 9). Update July 31: issue discussed in AMOC on July 29-31. Consensus: do not include email addresses in SOP 0.C.

16. IFT (assigned 5/20/08): revise draft proposal (possible initial releases and translocations) to cover period of mid-September 2008 – December 31, 2009; submit it to Terry Johnson by June 30 for dissemination to AMOC. Update July 31: IFT draft provided on June 30; Johnson revised and distributed it to AMOC on July 1 for discussion in July 29-31 AMOC meeting.
17. AMOC (assigned 6/10/08): discuss agency expectations for voluntary AZ and NM Livestock Industry Contacts identified in SOPs 5.0 and 6.0 (precipitated by AMOC Chair email exchange with NMDGF and private individual in NM on June 9-10). Update June 17: due to lack of time, discussion deferred to July AMOC meeting. Update July 31: issue discussed in AMOC on July 29-31. Consensus: AMOC cooperators only expect the voluntary AZ and NM contacts to serve as conduits to in-state livestock industry stakeholders for initial release and translocation information that AMOC provides. Beyond that document, stakeholder questions and concerns should be referred to IFT, AMOC, and/or appropriate Lead Agency.
18. AMOC (assigned 6/10/08): update on translocation of M1008 and F1028 in NM. Update July 31: the two translocated wolves self-released into Gila Wilderness on June 19; subsequent movements being tracked by IFT.
19. AMOC (assigned 6/17): participants in AMOC conference call on June 17 submit Summary Notes review comments to Terry Johnson by June 30. Update July 31: no comments received, so Terry Johnson finalized the Summary Notes on July 1.
20. Terry Johnson (assigned 6/17/08): disseminate final Summary Notes for June 17 conference call to AMOC cooperators and post them to the Project Web site by July 3, 2008. Update July 31: Johnson disseminated final notes on July 1 and Bruce Sitko posted them to Project Web site on July 2.
21. IFTLs and FPC (assigned 7/31/08): work with Bruce Sitko to post 2nd Quarter IFT Update on Project Web site, and provide final soft copy to Terry Johnson to disseminate to AMOC. Update August 4: Chris Bagnoli provided final revision to Bruce Sitko today for uploading to Project Web site at earliest convenience. Terry Johnson forwarded it to AMOC today.
22. Completion of Summary Notes for AMOC meeting on July 29-31 (assigned 7/31/08).
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): draft Summary Notes for July 29-31 AMOC meeting and distribute them to AMOC et al. for review. Update August 4: draft Summary Notes disseminated to AMOC on August 4 for review.
 - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 7/31/08): submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson by August 8. Update August 8: various comments received today.
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes for July 29-31 AMOC meeting to AMOC. Update August 11: final Summary Notes disseminated today.
23. Completion of Summary Notes for AMWG meeting on July 30 (assigned 7/31/08).
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): draft Summary Notes and distribute them to AMOC et al. for review. Update: August 5: draft Summary Notes distributed for AMCO et al. to review.
 - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 7/31/08): submit review comments on Summary Notes to Terry Johnson by August 15. Update August 8: various comments received today.
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes for July 29-31 AMOC meeting and post them to Project Web site. Update August 11: final Summary Notes posted to Project Web site today.

Current Action Items

1. Evaluate how to increase effectiveness of public participation in AMWG meetings (assigned 4/22/08). Discussed in AMOC on July 29-31 and in AMWG on July 30. Consensus to cut-back AMOC and AMWG meetings to three times per year in 2009 et seq. In 2009 et seq., move AMWG meetings back to end (1600-2000) of AMOC and Director Summit sessions. Explore possible changes in AMWG meeting format that might engage more attendees in substantive matters, such as issue-based discussions. Consider implementing changes in October 2008 AMWG meeting, with results-driven adjustments in subsequent meetings.
 - a. Kay Gale (assigned 7/30/08): convene small work group (invitation only) to develop recommendations on changing AMWG meetings to elicit increased public participation, and by August 31 report to AMOC Chair on progress to date.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss and take action on work group recommendations.
 - c. AMOC (assigned 7/30/08): by September 30, 2008, decide which, if any, work group recommendations to implement in October 29 AMWG meeting.
2. Nail down specific dates and locations (meeting rooms, facility contacts) for 2008-2010 AMOC, Director Summit, and AMWG meetings (assigned 4/22/08, revised 7/29/08). AMOC and Director Summit meeting rooms must be large enough for 30 and preferably 40 participants. AMWG meeting rooms must be large enough for 75 participants. Discussed in AMOC on July 29-31; 2008-2010 schedule revised and approved.
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 5/20/08): by June 15, confirm whether Steve Titla has confirmed accommodation and room availability for April 2009 AMOC and AMWG meetings scheduled for SCAT Apache Gold Casino and Conference Center.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): secure facilities for AMOC and AMWG meetings in December 2009 and April, August, and December 2010.
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): update AMOC on AMOC/AMWG meeting schedule for 2008, 2009, and 2010.
 - d. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): by August 15, send an *ES Update* on dates, times, locations of October 2008 and all 2009 AMWG meetings.
3. Ensure complete coverage of all FTE allocations to IFT (assigned 4/22/08). All Lead Agency Directors committed to ensuring that significant gaps in IFT coverage do not occur due to employee resignation, leave, and other priority assignments. However, some positions in NMDGF and USFWS have remained unfilled for months, and TDAs are not being used to fully cover short-term or other vacancies, resulting in gaps in IFT coverage and pressuring remaining IFT members to handle the workload.
 - a. Maggie Dwire (assigned 7/30/08): resolve gaps in USFWS backup coverage for John Oakleaf at field level (i.e. FPC, co-investigation, SCAT, and other field responsibilities) and TDA coverage for short and long-term vacancies in USFWS component of IFT.
 - b. Matt Wunder (assigned 7/30/08): resolve gaps in TDA coverage for short and long-term vacancies in NMDGF component of IFT.
4. Determine whether to establish a temporary holding facility for Project use (assigned 4/22/08). Various interim steps completed in May-July 2008, including AMOC discussion with Directors on July 30, but final decision package not yet produced.

- a. Cynthia Dale (assigned 4/23/08): work with IFTLs and FPC to add FAIR information to recommendation for temporary holding facility.
- b. AMOC, IFTLs, and FPC (assigned 7/30/08): by August 15, submit final comment on current temporary holding facility proposal (i.e. identify all concerns and ways to resolve them) for BRWRA facility (or facilities) to Terry Johnson.
- c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): by August 20, disseminate final temporary holding facility proposal to AMOC (cc: Signatory Cooperators) for Lead Agency representatives to discuss with their chain-of-command up through their Director. Note: a FAIR site will only be addressed in the proposal if WMAT provides site information August 15.
- d. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss and take action on temporary holding facility.
5. 2006 NEPA Addendum to 2003 AMOC MOU (assigned 4/22/08).
 - a. Cynthia Dale (assigned 7/29/08): determine whether WMAT wants to become a NEPA Cooperator and apprise AMOC Chair of decision.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/29/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding acceptance of additional AZ and NM counties that have requested status as NEPA Addendum Cooperators under 2003 MOU.
6. Delineate USFWS expectations of AMOC cooperators in NEPA process for revision of 10j rule (assigned 5/20/08).
 - a. John Slown (assigned 5/20/08): find out what USFWS expects each cooperator to provide for EIS/NEPA process, and discuss at June cooperators meeting, if one occurs. Update July 31: after discussing slow progress and concerns about USFWS resource (funding and staff) constraints in the July 29-31 AMOC meeting, cooperators identified various alternatives (county, state, and federal agency resources) that would help move NEPA forward. Slown then said USFWS will provide additional information on resource needs and agency expectations in a September 10-11 NEPA Cooperators meeting in ABQ.
7. Resolve whether funding is sufficient funds to cover helicopter and fixed-wing flight support for Project in FY2009 (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: total projected need \$179,217 for fixed-wing and helicopter flights (including weekly monitoring, capture/removal, end-of-year count, and contingency flights). NMDGF providing at least \$47,000 and AGFD providing at least \$98,202, so minimum shortfall is \$34,015 and maximum shortfall would be \$85,217 if AGFD cuts back to \$47,000 (i.e. same level as current NMDGF commitment).
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): by August 22, inform Lead Agency Directors that funds available are not sufficient for helicopter and fixed-wing flight support for FY2009.
 - b. Lead Agency Directors (assigned 7/30/08): provide guidance to AMOC on how to resolve shortfall (e.g. cut back flights, cut back area of coverage, and/or secure more funds).
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding Directors guidance on funding for flights.
8. IFT activity priorities and possible need for additional resources, including more personnel (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: AMOC discussed issue in April, May, June, and July. AMOC consensus: disagreements among Lead Agencies not resolvable at AMOC level.
 - a. AMOC representatives (assigned 7/30/08): discuss IFT FTE table with Director and report back to AMOC on guidance received.
 - b. Lead Agency Directors (assigned 7/30/08): by September 15, provide guidance to AMOC on preferred solutions to disagreements.

- c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding Directors guidance on IFT priorities, staffing levels, and workloads.
9. Public comment periods for draft Project SOPs and Clarification Memos (assigned 5/20/08). Need to reaffirm Lead Agency Director consensus (or lack thereof) on AMOC providing public comment periods for all draft SOPs and Clarification Memos. Issue scheduled for July 2008 Directors Summit, but time constraints precluded discussion.
 - a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): notify Directors that further guidance is needed for AMOC on whether “public comment periods” for Project SOPs and Clarification Memos are mandatory or discretionary.
10. Develop decision package for initial releases and translocations for September 2008 through December 2009 (assigned 5/20/08). Update July 31: on July 29-31, AMOC Lead Agency representatives reviewed IFT draft 2008-2009 initial release and translocation document. Draft document discussed with Directors on July 31. Directors approved moving revised proposal forward in accordance with SOPs 5.0 and 6.0. Final decisions on specific initial releases translocations will await completion of public meetings in Arizona and Directors concurrence afterward.
 - a. FPC and IFTLs (assigned 7/31/08): revise 2008-09 proposal per July 29-31 discussions in AMOC meeting and provide final to Terry Johnson to disseminate to AMOC and public.
 - b. Chris Bagnoli and Dave Cagle (assigned 7/31/08): schedule and conduct AZ public meetings and handle any other contacts/notices required by SOPs 5.0 and 6.0 for initial releases and translocations proposed in AZ for 2008 and 2009.
 - c. Ellen Heilhecker (assigned 7/31/08): handle all contacts/notices required by SOP 6.0 for translocations in NM in 2008 and 2009.
11. Western Watersheds Project’s request for AMOC Summary Notes from 2003 to date (assigned 5/20/08).
 - a. Matt Wunder (assigned 5/20/08): provide AMOC with information on NMDGF’s decision on Western Watersheds Project’s request for AMOC Summary Notes from 2003 to date. Update July 31: information not received; discussed in AMOC meeting on July 29-31 but no future course of action established.
12. Leadership Transition planning for AMOC (assigned 5/4/08). Lead Agency Directors told AMOC to develop a plan that would ensure a smooth and prompt transition when the current Chair needs to be replaced (current term ends in December 2009). Update June 17: Terry Johnson provided brief concepts he is thinking of for transition planning.
 - a. Matt Wunder, Cynthia Dale, and Terry Johnson (assigned 5/17/08): exchange initial brainstorming ideas by June 30, and convey draft integrated description to AMOC prior to July 11 for discussion in July 29-31 AMOC meeting. Update June 30: on June 18, WMAT informed Terry Johnson they opt not to participate in leadership transition planning; no ideas provided by Wunder or Johnson; issue placed on AMOC agenda for July 29-31. Update June 30: no information provided by Matt Wunder or Terry Johnson. Update July 23: no information exchanged; issue on AMOC agenda for July 29-31. Update July 31: issue discussed in AMOC July 29-30 meeting. Cynthia Dale reaffirmed WMAT decision not to take on leadership responsibilities. Matt Wunder reaffirmed NMDGF Director Thompson’s interest in NMDGF assuming responsibilities of Chair (the person might or might not be Matt) but had no further information. Terry Johnson reaffirmed previously-stated AMOC majority opinion that leadership involves more than identifying someone to convene and run AMOC meetings. It is time intensive and

- requires knowledge of AMOC history as well as emergent issues. Difficult to see how NMDGF could take on greater responsibility for leadership when, due to workload or other issues, existing responsibilities are not being handled. Decision: in absence of further information from NMDGF, all agreed that Terry will continue to rely on Dave Cagle (AGFD) as necessary for support as surrogate AMOC Chair.
- b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 regarding AMOC leadership transition planning.
13. Discussion of wolf mortalities in 2008 (assigned 6/10/08). Update June 17: due to lack of time, AMOC discussion deferred to July AMOC meeting. Update July 31: issue discussed in AMOC meeting on July 29-31, in conjunction with discussion of apparent Project bottleneck between ca. 40 and 60 free-ranging wolves. Comprehensive management alternatives identified for further refinement by (a) USFWS-convened work group (AGFD, NMDGF, USFWS, and WMAT) and then by (b) review with AMOC before submittal for consideration by Lead Agency Directors. Law enforcement alternatives being developed by separate multi-agency task force; LE alternatives will be kept confidential, on a “need to know” basis. Update August 4: USFWS work group will meet in ABQ on August 26-27 to revise draft alternatives and recommendations for management actions. LE task force still on separate path and timeline and activities uncertain.
- a. Maggie Dwire (assigned 7/31/08): revise draft management recommendations to address issues discussed by AMOC and Directors on July 31, and re-convene work group on August 26-27 in ABQ to further refine document.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): update AMOC on outcomes of 8/26-27 work group meeting, and next steps in decision process.
14. Draft conventions for formatting Project documents (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. AMOC, IFTLs, and FPC (assigned 7/30/08): provide Track Changes comment to Terry Johnson by August 31.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discussion and take action on draft conventions for formatting Project documents.
15. Draft “roles and responsibilities” document (assigned 7/31/08).
- a. Lead Agency representatives (assigned 7/31/08): discuss draft “roles and responsibilities” document with Director and provide Track Changes comment to Terry Johnson by August 31.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss Lead Agency feedback on draft “roles and responsibilities” document.
16. Re-consideration of Project guidelines for loaning radio-telemetry receivers to the public (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. IFTLs and FPC (assigned 7/30/08): by August 31, integrate NMDGF comments into current AMOC-approved “statement of use” (guidelines) for use and receipt of telemetry equipment and provide final draft to Terry Johnson to disseminate for AMOC comment and consideration.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): convene AMOC conference call in September 2008 to discuss and take action on IFT recommendations regarding radio-telemetry receiver loan.
17. Revision of Project poster to advise outdoor-recreating public of possible presence of Mexican wolves (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. Dave Cagle (assigned 7/30/08): by August 15, integrate AMOC comment into Mexican wolf “presence” poster and provide final version to Terry Johnson for AMOC approval,

- prior to printing and distribution and placement. Note to Cagle: work with Dave Bergman and Chris Carrillo to resolve problem presented by new (ultra-wide) Wildlife Services “branding” logo.
- b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): coordinate AMOC approval of revised “wolf presence” poster and notify Dave Cagle of authorization to proceed with printing.
18. Revision of draft Clarification Memos for SOPs 11.0 and 13.0.
- a. Completed. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): use Track Changes to mark up draft Clarification Memos for SOPs 11.0 and 13.0 with AMOC recommendations from July 29-31 meeting. Update August 4: revision completed today.
 - b. Completed. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): forward revised draft Clarification Memos to AMOC, IFTLs, and FPC for final “pre-Director review” comment by August 8. Update August 4: revised Clarification Memos disseminated to AMOC et al. for comment.
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): submit AMOC-revised draft Clarification Memos to Lead Agency Directors for consideration and further guidance to AMOC.
19. Update BRWRA Project summary of costs-to-date (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. AMOC Lead Agency Representatives (assigned 7/30/08): by August 31, provide revised information for 2008 and 2009 to Terry Johnson.
 - b. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): update Project costs-to-date summary and re-post on Project Web site by September 30.
20. Public access to AMOC Summary Notes (assigned 7/30/08).
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/30/08): post pdf copies of all 40 redacted “final” AMOC Summary Notes for February 2003 – June 2008 and July 2008 final AMOC Summary Notes to Project Web site.
21. Completion of Summary Notes for AMWG meeting on July 30 (assigned 7/31/08).
- a. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): draft Summary Notes and distribute them to AMOC et al. for review. Update: August 5: draft Summary Notes distributed for review.
 - b. AMOC, IFTLs, FPC, and Signatory Cooperators (assigned 7/31/08): submit review comments on draft Summary Notes to Terry Johnson by August 15.
 - c. Terry Johnson (assigned 7/31/08): disseminate final (approved) Summary Notes for July 29-31 AMOC meeting and post them to Project Web site.